IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3653

In re

Patent Application of

James R. Michler, et al.

Application No. 10/630,352

Confirmation No.: 9288

Filed: July 30, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

"STARWHEEL FEED APPARATUS AND METHOD"

I, Jodi Anderson, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Jodi Anderson
Signature

10-31-2003
Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B and copies of which are attached.

This paper submission is being filed simultaneously with five (5) electronic IDS submissions and all are considered to be part of the same, single IDS.

Citation of these references is respectfully requested.

No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicant expressly reserves the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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File No. 019384-9169-00

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Substitute of form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/630,352
Filing Date	July 30, 2003
First Name Inventor	James R. Michler
Group Art Unit	3653
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	019384-9169-00

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials		Country Code	Foreign Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Translation	English Abstract
		*AT	219396	Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Company Limited In London	1/25/1962		
		*DE	372031	Firma J. Heinrich Spoerl in Dusseldorf	3/23/1923		
		*DE	442935	Vogtlandische Maschinenfabrick A.-G. in Plauen i.V.	4/9/1927		
		*DE	719833	Vomag Maschinenfabrik A.G. in Plauen, Vogtl.	4/17/1942		
		*FR	755348	R. Hoe & Company Limited	11/23/1933		
		*FR	1215073	Maschinenfabrik Winkler, Fallert & Co. A.G.	4/13/1960		
		GB	321873	R. Hoe & Co. Limited	11/21/1929		
		GB	513171	Pressed Steel Company Limited	10/5/1939		
		GB	1479299	Bunzel & Biach AG	7/13/1977		
		*IT	646301	Winkler Richard a Regadorf Ub. Neuwied	2/1/1966		
		*SE	116974	J. Dahl & Son Aktiebolag Mekanisk Verkstad, Stockholm	8/13/1946		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials		Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, jouornal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
		EXHIBIT A - 9-page disclosure relating to a transfer system manufactued by the assignee (Statement of relevance attached).
		EXHIBIT B - 13-page disclosure relating to transfer system manufactured by the assignee (Statement of relevance attached).

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 0231.
DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

STATEMENTS OF RELEVANCE FOR FOREIGN REFERENCES
019384/9169

AT219396: Austrian Patent No. 219396 appears to disclose an apparatus that produces a stack of interfolded paper tissues in an alternating zig-zag pattern. The apparatus includes two separators that are located within a grooved slot in each cutter roller. The cutter rollers are responsible for cutting the web into tissues of a desired length. The separators separate the cut tissue from the rollers and alternately position the tissues in an overlapping manner.

DE372031: German Patent No. 372031 appears to disclose an apparatus that produces a stack of interfolded paper tissues in an alternating zig-zag pattern by using two independent separator fingers that are mounted so as to pivot about a moveable axis. The separator fingers alternately separate the web from the cutter rollers from a grooved slot within the rollers that is not concentric about the roller axis.

DE442935: German Patent No. 442935 appears to disclose an apparatus that performs cutting and folding operations on a paper web, specifically a paper web used for generating newspapers. After the web is cut to length between the cutter rollers to create a sheet, the apparatus performs a series of folds. Specifically, the sheet is initially folded in half, then the half-folded sheet is folded into thirds along a fold line parallel to the initial fold line, and finally the folded sheet is folded in half along a fold line perpendicular the initial fold line.

DE719833: German Patent No. 321873 appears to disclose an apparatus that cuts a web of paper into narrower strips and then distributes the two narrower webs that are folded over themselves to the next series of rollers, doubling the layer thickness of the narrowed webs. The two separated narrowed webs are then combined between more rollers to create a four-ply web. This combined web is then cut into suitable lengths by the cutting cylinders and folded with a suitable tucking blade and delivered to the fly-delivery wheel.

FR755,348: French Patent No. 755,348 appears to disclose first and second sets of separation fingers (4) movable through a starwheel (1) to begin and hold a stack of sheets being discharged from the starwheel (1). The first and second sets of separation fingers (4) are actuated along a defined path by a common cam shaft (15) that rotates to move respective cam followers (11, 12) coupled to the first and second sets of separator fingers (4).

FR1,215,073: French Patent No. 1,215,348 appears to disclose multiple sets of separation fingers (6) movable through a starwheel (4) to begin and hold a stack of sheets (2) being discharged from the starwheel (4). The multiple sets of separation fingers (6) are each coupled to and actuated by a common shaft that rotates to move all of the separation fingers (6) through respective linkages (11). Each of the linkages (11) includes a cam follower (13) that is biased into contact with an inner raceway of a cam ring (15) to move the separation fingers (6) along a defined path.

IT646301: Italian Patent No. 646301 appears to disclose a horizontal stacking apparatus that includes a series of dividers projectable into the stacking path to deliver a desired number of sheets through the path of the machine wherein the dividers are mounted for cyclical motion on a chain drive system.

SE116974: Swedish Patent No. 116974 appears to disclose an apparatus that manipulates a web of material to increase its layer thickness and cut and fold the modified multiple-layered web. The cutting roller cuts the multilayered-web into the desired sheet size and then folds the sheets by radially projecting a finger from the cutting roller into the center of the sheet translating the sheet center between two folding rollers.

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STATEMENTS OF RELEVANCE FOR NON-PATENT REFERENCES

Exhibit A: Exhibit A is a 9-page disclosure relating to a transfer system manufactured by the assignee of the present application. In this system, a pair of separator fingers moves a napkin pack from input location shown in stage 3 to an outlet location shown in stage 5 where a paddle assembly carries the napkin pack away.

Exhibit B: Exhibit B is a 13-page disclosure relating to a transfer system manufactured by the assignee of the present application. In this system, a separator carriage is driven by a roller chain and sprocket assembly along a tilt cam to carry a stack of napkins from an input station, rotate it 90° and deliver it to an intermediate position where upper and lower stripper fingers successively move it to a paddle conveyor.